



THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

GOVERNING THE COLONIES

- 13 Colonies expanded rapidly from 1700-1763



GOVERNING THE COLONIES

- King appointed governor for each
- Each colony had an elected assembly
- Britain would regulate colonial trade
 - Navigations Act
 - Mostly mutually beneficial, but some resentment from the New England Colonies (sugar, molasses)
- Salutary Neglect:
 - Deeply involved in domestic and European affairs, Britain failed to regulate very closely the development of its North American colonies. The latter benefitted by being able to exercise a substantial degree of local control in politics and the economy

ROAD TO REVOLUTION

- Seven Years' War had been costly
- King George III:
 - Attempted to restore proper balance (domination) in Parliament through patronage
 - Recommended raising funds by collecting it from the colonists



ROAD TO REVOLUTION

- Stamp Act (1765)
 - Taxed a variety of items (newspapers, deeds, wills, dice, and playing cards)
 - Colonists argued “No taxation without representation” in British Parliament
 - Riots would erupt, colonists would boycott British goods, act repealed
- Boston Massacre

WORSENING RELATIONS

- 1773: Boston Tea Party



WORSENING RELATIONS

1774: Intolerable Acts:

- Boston Port Act
- Massachusetts Governance Act
- Quartering Act
- Quebec Act

WORSENING RELATIONS

- 1774: First Continental Congress
- 1775: Second Continental Congress
- Fighting starts at Lexington



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- July 4, 1776:
Delegates of the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia agree on a Declaration of Independence explaining the reasons for separating from Great Britain



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- Document mostly drafted by Thomas Jefferson, a student of the Enlightenment (Locke) “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”
 - A ruler had power only as long as he or she had the consent of the governed.

AMERICAN VICTORY

- American Revolution lasts from 1775-1783
- Early British advantages:
 - Better trained
 - Better equipped
 - Colonies did not all agree
- American advantages:
 - Patriots: fighting for their own territory, families, homes
 - Could disappear into the countryside
 - Brilliant military leader in George Washington

AMERICAN VICTORY

- Winter 1777-1778 a turning point:
 - Americans armed with better weapons supplied by France
 - France gave official support: recognized independence and signed alliance
- 1781: With help from France, Americans capture a British army at Yorktown
- British Parliament forces King George III to negotiate a peace:
 - Treaty of Versailles 1783

FRAMING A CONSTITUTION

- 1781-1789: Articles of Confederation
 - Limited power
- 1788: Ratified Constitution of the United States of America
- Inspired by Locke and Montesquieu
- Separation of Powers key to preventing tyranny: Legislature (House of Rep. and Senate), Executive (President) and Judiciary (system of national courts)



FRAMING A CONSTITUTION

- System of checks and balances
- Bill of Rights added in 1791 to appease the colonies
- The franchise was extended to include most white males

IMPACT

- The American Revolution:
 - Put the ideas of the enlightenment into practice
 - Treaty of Versailles, the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights would be used as models around the world
 - Arrival of the Loyalists
 - Some blame placed on mercantilism (Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*: Laissez Faire)

